

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-07

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORC, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJ: ICAO: BILINGUALISM IN CANADIAN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER
SERVICES

1. THE SUBJECT OF FRENCH/ENGLISH BILINGUALISM IN CANADIAN AVIATION WAS GIVEN MUCH ATTENTION AT THE VANCOUVER SYMPOSIUM AND ABBOTSFORD AIR SHOW IN AUGUST. COUNCIL MEMBERS CAME AWAY DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE EMPHASIS BEING PLACED ON THIS SUBJECT AND THE POSSIBLE PROLIFERATION OF THE IDEA OF TWO LANGUAGE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICES IN MANY COUNTRIES.

2. USREP IS BEING KEPT ADVISED INFORMALLY BY CANADIAN COMMISSIONER REGARDING CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS, I.E., MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10 WITH MINISTER TRANSPORT MARCHAND AND UNDERSTANDS TOP LEVEL STATEMENT REGARDING THIS CONTROVERSIAL QUESTION IS IMMINENT.

3. USREP IN RECEIPT OF LETTER FROM O'DONNELL, PRESIDENT ALPA ENCLOSING A COPY HIS LETTER TO MALEY, PRESIDENT CALPA. TEXT TRANSMITTED HEREUNDER. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BEGIN CONSIDERING BROADER ASPECTS OF BILINGUALISM CONTROVERSY IN ICAO CONTEXT IN CASE QUESTION IS NOT SATISFACTORILY QUIETED. IF CANADIAN PUSH CONTINUES, IT IS OBVIOUS FROM INFORMAL TALK AMONG COUNCIL MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONERS THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WILL PURSUE THE PRECEDENT. US AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS MAY WISH
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TO MAKE APPROPRIATE JOINT STATEMENT/REPRESENTATION IN ICAO (WHICH

IS THE BODY THAT ESTABLISHED ENGLISH AS THE BASIC UNDERLYING
WORKING LANGUAGE OF INTERNATIONAL AVIATION. (ANNEX 10 PARA 5.2.1.
1.)

4. TEXT OF O'DONNELL/DILLON LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 3:

"THE 38,000 PILOTS REPRESENTED BY THE AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION
ARE VERY CONCERNED BY THE CURRENT UTILIZATION OF FRENCH/ENGLISH
BILINGUALISM IN CERTAIN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICES BEING
CONDUCTED BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. THE CANADIAN AIR LINE
PILOTS ASSOCIATION, TOGETHER WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER
AVIATION GROUPS IN CANADA, ARE STRENUOUSLY OPPOSING THEIR
GOVERNMENT'S ACTION.

"ENGLISH IS THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE IN AVIATION. ALPA FEELS THAT
THERE CAN BE NO COMPROMISE IN THIS MATTER SINCE INTRODUCTION OF A
SECOND LANGUAGE TO AIR TRAFFIC RADIO COMMUNICATIONS WILL REPRESENT
A SIGNIFICANT HAZARD TO THE PILOTS AND THE TRAVELING PUBLIC. AIR
TRAFFIC CONTROL IS A COOPERATIVE SYSTEM INVOLVING BOTH CONTROLLERS
AND PILOTS; AND THE BASIC SAFETY OF THE SYSTEM IS COMPROMISED WITH
THE INTRODUCTION OF A SECOND LANGUAGE.

"WE URGE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EXPRESS, IN THE STRONGEST
TERMS, ITS OPPOSITION TO THIS DEGRADATION OF SAFETY IN
INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL."

TEXT OF O'DONNELL/MALEY LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 3:

"I UNDERSTAND THAT THE CANADIAN AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION
TOGETHER WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OTHER AVIATION INDUSTRY
GROUPS IN CANADA IS STRENUOUSLY OPPOSING THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S
POLICY OF IMPLEMENTING FRENCH/ENGLISH BILINGUALISM IN CERTAIN AIR
TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICES.

"PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE U.S. AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION
FULLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY SUPPORTS YOUR POSITION. WE
CONSIDER THAT ANY INTRODUCTION OF EXTRANEIOUS CONVERSATIONS OR
BILINGUAL COMMUNICATIONS CAN ONLY CREATE DANGEROUS CONFUSION AND
DELAYS IN CONTROLLED AIRSPACE AND IS OBVIOUSLY DETRIMENTAL TO
SAFETY. TO TAKE A STEP BACKWARDS WHEN THE BASIC PRINCIPLE
UNDERLYING AVIATION SAFETY TECHNOLOGY IS THE FAIL-SAFE CONCEPT
IS TRULY UNCONSCIONABLE.

"WE UNDERSTAND THAT CALPA HAS DETERMINED TO CEASE ALL FLIGHT
OPERATIONS FOR A PERIOD OF 24 HOURS AT MIDNIGHT, OCTOBER 17, 1975,
UNLESS YOUR GOVERNMENT WITHDRAWS ITS EXISTING POLICY OF BILING-
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UALISM AT CERTAIN CONTROLLED AIRPORTS AND THAT YOU WILL CEASE
OPERATIONS INDEFINITELY IF YOUR GOVERNMENT FURTHER IMPLEMENTS
BILINGUAL A.T.S.

"I INTEND TO BRING THIS ISSUE BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
ALPA-U.S. ON SEPTEMBER 24, 1975, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDING
A PROTEST OF U.S. AIRLINE PILOTS AGAINST THIS DANGEROUS
OPERATING PROCEDURE.

"WE SHALL INFORM YOU OF OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S ACTION."

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